

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend Claim 1. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A neutral,~~ An underivatized, aqueous soluble  $\beta$ -glucan preparation which enhances host defense mechanisms to infection and does not induce an inflammatory response.
2. (Original) An underivatized, aqueous soluble  $\beta$ -glucan composition in a triple helix conformation which enhances host immune defense mechanisms without inducing detrimental side effects.
3. (Original) An underivatized, aqueous soluble  $\beta$ -glucan composition in a triple helix conformation having a high affinity to the glucan receptor on monocytes and which enhances microbicidal activity of phagocytic cells and the hemopoietic activity of monocytes, neutrophils and platelets.
4. (Original) An underivatized, aqueous soluble  $\beta$ -glucan composition in a triple helix conformation which is effective in mobilizing the hosts normal immune defenses.